

Vote YES on Article 49



Hill's Hill Mountain Bike Project

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What are Bike Trails?

Bike trails are an area where mountain bikers and other outdoor enthusiasts can go and enjoy paths and features that are specifically made to be ridden on bikes. These areas have a variety of trails for all different disciplines and skill levels. Trails are designed to be fun, predictable and safe.

At Hill's Hill, these bike trails would be designed to coexist with walking and running trails. The tree canopy and natural environment would be protected.

The bike trails would be made mainly of dirt and use the natural slope of the land so that trails flow up and down and across, not straight down. The overall area would be relatively small, about half the size of a soccer field. Mountain bikers are known to be great caretakers of the environment. Ask any mountain biker and they will tell you that the highlight is to be out in nature.



Why would this be good to have in Arlington?

Mountain biking is a quickly growing sport. Arlington is already well known to have a large cycling community. Having bike trails at Hill's Hill would give riders a safe space to learn new skills or progress their abilities. A designated bike area will also keep riders out of other places in Arlington like Menotomy Rocks Park, Robbins Farm Park, the Great Meadow, and school playgrounds and fields. Having bike trails in Arlington would also open new opportunities for summer and afterschool programs run by the Parks and Recreation Department. It could also be used by the high school bike club and the biking classes offered at AHS.

Bike trails supports Arlington's *Open Space Recreation Plan*:

Creating bike trails at Hill's Hill ties perfectly into Arlington's open space recreation plan. Page 124 of the Open Space Recreation Plan states its goals to:

- 1. Increase the availability of all types of trails for recreation.*
- 2. Invest in recreation and conservation areas that are close to home for short visits.*
- 3. Invest in racially, economically, and age diverse neighborhoods given their projected increase in participation in outdoor recreation.*



On page 129, the ***Open Space Recreation Plan*** talks about some goals of the plan. Goal #4 especially stuck out to me:

Goal 4. Increase public awareness, accessibility, and community stewardship of the Town's open spaces and recreational facilities.

a. Support volunteer groups for major open spaces and recreational facilities.

b. Increase public awareness and educate Town residents about open space and recreational resources.

c. Provide greater use of and improved access to key water bodies, natural areas, and recreational facilities.

Pages 135 and 142 also touched on two more specific goals that the bike trails would provide:

Page 135:

- ***Pursue new recreational opportunities based on community preference, such as for more swimming and ice skating facilities.***

Page 142:

- ***Increase the diversity of recreational options to reflect Arlington's changing demographics.***

Both of these could include mountain biking as a new form of recreation for the Town's residents. The trails would utilize the space the town already has at Hill's Hill and make it more accessible for all residents. It would support current volunteer groups who want to maintain the trails such as the High School Bike Club. And the Parks and Rec Department plans to offer classes and the use of free bikes for anyone who doesn't have one.

Benefits of Bike Trails in Arlington

Creates a safe space for kids to exercise and meet with friends, especially once we've outgrown the playgrounds. We don't have many town spaces for teens.

Expands access to the outdoors and to non-organized sports for kids who don't make the soccer or hockey team, or who want other ways of being active.

Answers a need that young people in Arlington are asking for. A lot of us participate on mountain bike teams in other towns. But biking is so popular that there are long waitlists. These trails would give anyone in town a place to ride their bike, walk, or run.

Teaches young people to be good stewards of the environment and to invest themselves in maintaining the trails.

Recently, a group of bike trail supporters organized a clean up day at Hill's Hill. We found truck and car tires, equipment for a telephone pole, mattress springs and a lot of trash. One kid said the area should be renamed "Diamond Hill" because of all of the broken glass that sparkled in the dirt.



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Thank You!